

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

MARCH 21, 2007

EMERGENCY MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in emergency session with the following members present: Chairman Bill Williams, Vice Chairman Jerry W. Barnes, and Commissioner Billy E. Traylor. <Commissioners Nathan Peters, Jr. and Carmen L. McLemore were absent>.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Becky Norris, Deputy Clerk Kari Summers, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Maintenance Superintendent Steve Mork, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, T.D.C. Director Paula Pickett, Veterans' Service Officer James Kennedy, and Sheriff Dalton Upchurch.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m., E.T.

COURTHOUSE/PUBLIC PROPERTY SECURITY

Sheriff Upchurch appeared before the Board and discussed an individual that became extremely irate at the Courthouse, stating that deputies tried to remove him and he refused, and attempted to flee (this is not the first incident with this individual). Chairman Williams discussed prohibiting this individual from all County public buildings and property for safety reasons. He also discussed that he talked to the Sheriff and Major Nugent regarding a card swipe system at the back of the Courthouse, and a security system at the front entrance. Chairman Williams recommended a meeting be held with the Judge, Sheriff, and State Attorney's Office to review security implementation for the Courthouse. County Attorney McFarland discussed that issues with this individual have been going on for over a year and a half, stating that the events are escalating and the Board needs to prohibit the disruption of County functions. County Attorney McFarland discussed that the County can obtain a civil injunction through the court system to keep him away from County property. Commissioner Traylor discussed that most of the people coming to the Courthouse and Board meetings are civil. County Attorney McFarland discussed that the Board needs to continue with implementation of other security measures, stating that there needs to be a magnetometer at the front door with a deputy to man it, and the back doors should be locked. County Judge Witten appeared before the Board and discussed a meeting that was held six years ago concerning the Small County Courthouse Facilities Grant Funds, stating that there was a list of things to be repaired, placement of a magnetometer at the front door, and funding for two deputies for two years to man the magnetometer. He discussed that the County Commissioners voted not to approve that plan because they could not afford to maintain deputies after the two years were up. County Judge Witten recommended that the magnetometer be installed to protect everyone. After discussion by members of the Board,

Commissioner Traylor motioned for the County Attorney to proceed with obtaining a civil injunction and for him to inquire about an Administrative Order regarding this individual. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0). Upon recommendation by Chairman Williams, Commissioner Traylor motioned to receive sealed bids for a magnetometer and card swipe system. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously (3-0).

There being no further business, and upon motion by Commissioner Traylor, the meeting did then adjourn at 10:28 a.m., E.T.

**BILL WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN**

ATTEST:

**REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK**